



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
FY2003 ARTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING AT THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 25, 2002, Washington, D.C. - As the July 4 recess nears, Congress is moving ahead with FY2003 funding decisions. Later this summer, congressional appropriators will begin considering funding for the U.S. Department of Education and the Arts in Education section, which currently provides support for competitive arts education grant programs, and the national initiatives of both the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and VSA arts.

Reinstating Arts in Education Funding

As in FY02, the President has omitted support for the Arts in Education section in his 2003 budget request. Congress fully supported the programs with funding in FY02 of \$30 million, and arts advocates are now asking Congress to provide \$36 million for the Arts in Education section for FY03.

Bipartisan Support for \$36 million

More than 90 members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula (R-OH), requesting \$36 million for the Arts in Education section and citing evidence from the Arts Education Partnership's recently-released research compendium, *Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development*. The letter was sponsored by the Congressional Arts Caucus co-chairs, Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Steve Horn (R-CA). Attached is a copy of the letter, with a list of those who signed in support of funding for the Arts in Education section. In the Senate, Appropriations Committee member Thad Cochran (R-MS) has formally requested \$36 million for the section and continues to consider arts education funding a high priority.

Action Needed

1. Please contact your representatives in Congress to urge them to support \$36 million for the Arts in Education section of the U.S. Department of Education's FY03 funding. Following is a sample message:
We urge Congress to appropriate \$36 million for the Arts in Education program to support the competitive arts education grant programs and the important national leadership programs of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and VSA arts. As state and local education agencies begin to implement the No Child Left Behind Act, Congress needs to provide sufficient funding for national education programs to ensure that the arts are a part of every child's education.
2. Please **thank** those members who signed the attached letter of support for Arts in Education funding.

Complete contact information for all members of Congress is available at www.congress.org. For further information, please contact Heather Watts, American Symphony Orchestra League Director of Government Affairs, (202) 776-0215.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Ralph Regula
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3516

Dear Chairman Regula:

We write to strongly urge you to support \$36 million for the Arts in Education program under the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for Improvement of Education in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2003.

As you know, Congress, the White House, and the U.S. Department of Education have recognized the arts as one of the core subjects of learning. However, we must provide sufficient funding to ensure that the arts are a part of every child's education. Arts in Education grants are critical to developing models of rigorous arts education programs in the schools, to supporting the ongoing leadership of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and VSA arts, and for furthering the professional development of arts educators.

Years of rigorous research conclude that there is a significant link between arts learning and students' academic performance, social development, and their motivations, attitudes, and dispositions towards learning. The Arts Education Partnership's recently-released review of 62 studies of learning in dance, drama, music, and the visual arts, titled *Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development*, includes the following important findings:

The arts are proven to help close the achievement gap. The studies suggest that for young children, students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, and students needing remedial instruction, learning in the arts may be uniquely able to boost learning and achievement.

The arts improve the academic skills essential for reading and language development. Certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement basic reading instruction by associating letters, words, and phrases with sounds, sentences, and meanings. Dramatic enactments by young children also are shown to produce more effective writing.

The arts advance the motivation to learn. Motivation and the aspiration to pursue and sustain learning are essential to achievement in all areas of life. Learning in the arts nurtures these capacities, including active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence, and increases attendance and educational aspirations.

We urge you to support the educational development of our school children and the professional development of our teachers by providing \$36 million for Arts in Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY28)

Stephen Horn (R-CA38)

Neil Abercrombie (D-HI01)

Peter Deutsch (D-FL20)

Gary L. Ackerman (D-NY05)

Lloyd Doggett (D-TX10)

Brian Baird (D-WA03)

Michael F. Doyle (D-PA18)

John E. Baldacci (D-ME02)

Eliot L. Engel (D-NY17)

Thomas M. Barrett (D-WI05)

Lane Evans (D-IL17)

Xavier Becerra (D-CA30)

Bob Etheridge (D-NC02)

Doug Bereuter (R-NE01)

Bob Filner (D-CA50)

Howard L. Berman (D-CA26)

Mark Foley (R-FL16)

Rod R. Blagojevich (D-IL05)

Harold E. Ford, Jr. (D-TN09)

Earl Blumenauer (D-OR03)

Charles A. Gonzalez (D-TX20)

David E. Bonior (D-MI10)

Bart Gordon (D-TN06)

Corrine Brown (D-FL03)

Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL04)

Lois Capps (D-CA22)

Tony P. Hall (D-OH03)

Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD03)

Jane Harman (D-CA36)

Donna M. Christensen (D-VI)

Rush D. Holt (D-NJ12)

William Lacy Clay (D-MO01)

Michael M. Honda (D-CA15)

Bob Clement (D-TN05)

Amo Houghton (R-NY31)

James E. Clyburn (D-SC06)

William J. Jefferson (D-LA02)

John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI14)

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH11)

Jerry F. Costello (D-IL12)

Nick Lampson (D-TX09)

Joseph Crowley (D-NY07)

Tom Lantos (D-CA12)

Danny K. Davis (D-IL07)

Rick Larsen (D-WA02)

Susan A. Davis (D-CA49)

John B. Larson (D-CT01)

Peter DeFazio (D-OR04)

James A. Leach (R-IA01)
Barbara Lee (D-CA09)
William O. Lipinski (D-IL03)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA16)
Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY14)
James H. Maloney (D-CT05)
Edward J. Markey (D-MA07)
Karen McCarthy (D-MO05)
Betty McCollum (D-MN04)
Jim McDermott (D-WA07)
James P. McGovern (D-MA03)
Cynthia A. McKinney (D-GA04)
Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA37)
Patsy T. Mink (D-HI02)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY08)
Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA34)
Richard E. Neal (D-MA02)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
James L. Oberstar (D-MN08)
Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ06)
Ed Pastor (D-AZ02)
Donald M. Payne (D-NJ10)
Collin C. Peterson (D-MN07)

Charles B. Rangel (D-NY15)
Silvestre Reyes (D-TX16)
Lynn N. Rivers (D-MI13)
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)
Max Sandlin (D-TX01)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL09)
Adam B. Schiff (D-CA27)
Hilda L. Solis (D-CA31)
Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA13)
Ellen O. Tauscher (D-CA10)
Mike Thompson (D-CA01)
John F. Tierney (D-MA06)
Edolphus Towns (D-NY10)
Mark Udall (D-CO02)
Tom Udall (D-NM03)
Diane Watson (D-CA32)
Henry A. Waxman (D-CA29)
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA06)
David Wu (D-OR01)
Albert Russell Wynn (D-MD04)